

## Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIEP-03

AID-20 /133 W

----- 036833

R 221400Z AUG 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1170

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 527

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IZ LE XF

SUBJ: IRAQI INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS

REF: BEIRUT A 103

1. LEBANESE DIPLOMATS IN BAGHDAD TAKE SURPRISINGLY DETACHED VIEW OF IRAQI EFFORTS TO INTERFERE IN LEBANESE POLITICS. LEBANESE CHARGE TOLD ME, FOR EXAMPLE, HE FINDS IRAQI ACTIVITIES QUITE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR BROADER POLICIES OF SEEKING TO END ISOLATION AND PLAY GREATER ROLE IN AREA. HE SPOKE JOKINGLY ABOUT LEBANESE JOURNALISTS WHO COME TO BAGHDAD FOR THEIR PAYOFFS AND CALL AT EMBASSY AND RIDICULE IRAQI HEAVY HANDEDNESS COMPARED TOMORE SUBTLE METHODS OF OTHER FOREIGN POWERS.

2. RECENTLY, JORDANIAN CHARGE TOLD ME AND LEBANESE CHARGE THAT GOI HAD SENT 107 RPT 107 MILITARY MEN IN MUFTI TO LEBANON IN COMPANY OF PALESTINIAN POPULAR DELEGATION THAT VISITED BAGHDAD FIRST WEEK IN AUG, PRESUMABLY TO CARRY  
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OUT ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH LEBANON. EVEN THIS NEWS SEEMED TO

BE TAKEN IN STRIDE BY LEBANESE. LEBANESE AMB SHAMMAS TOLD ME LAST MONTH THAT CONTACTS WERE CONTINUING BETWEEN IRAQI AND LEBANESE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY OFFICERS TO KEEP PROBLEM WITHIN MANAGEABLE BOUNDS.

3. COMMENT: DETACHED ATTITUDE OF LEBANESE REPS IS APPARENTLY RESULT OF LONG ACCEPTED PRACTICE OF FOREIGN POWERS USING LEBANON AS PROXY BATTLEFIELD FOR MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS. WHILE LEBANESE REPS DON'T CARE FOR POLICIES OF IRAQI BAATH, THEY SEEM TO ACCEPT THAT IRAQ HAS SAME RIGHT AS OTHER TO PURSUE THEM INSIDE LEBANON. LEBANESE ANALYSIS THAT MEDDLING IN LEBANON AND WITH PALESTINIANS IS BECAUSE IRAQIS WANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS REGIONAL POWER AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS MAY BE RATIONALIZATION (SINCE THERE IS LITTLE LEBANON CAN DO TO CURTAIL THESE ACTIVITIES.) MY OWN VIEW IS THAT THIS ANALYSIS MAY GIVE GOI TOO MUCH CREDIT FOR WELL THOUGH OUT STRATEGY AND COORDINATED POLICIES. CONTRADICTION BETWEEN POSITIVE GOI DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AND CONTINUATION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES MAY BE RESULT OF INTERNAL WEAKNESS OF REGIME AND CONFLICT BETWEEN RADICAL BAATH ELEMENTS (INCLUDING INTELLIGENCE APPARTUS WHICH HAS LIFE OF ITS OWN) AND PRAGMATIC ELEMENTS WHO WISH TO BRING IRAQ BACK INTO INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT PRAGMATISTS WILL BE STRENGTHENED IF OTHER ARABS FOLLOW SADAT'S LEAD AND DEAL WITH IRAQUIS WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT CESSATION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IS PRICE GOI HAS TO PAY FOR NORMAL RELATIONS.  
LOWRIE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BAGHDA00527  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BEIRUT A 103  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IRAQI INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IZ, LE, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005